Consumer $ense Notes

Christmas: season of spills?

By OCIE M. MACK
Extension Agent

Christmas season is a time of the year for sharing and bringing joy and happiness into someone's life.

It is also a time when many accidental spills will be made on clothing as well as home furnishings, and many consumers will want to know how to remove those spots and stains. If you are confronted with this problem, remember that there is no one key to spot removal. However, most spots can be removed if you have knowledge of the characteristics of fibers, yarns and finishes, as well as the techniques for treating fabrics.

Effective stain removal involves not rubbing the stain area but patting the area with the spot remover. If liquid is dropped on a textile product, absorb the moisture with a blotter or paper towel immediately. A fabric made of silk may water spot or show marks of rubbing. Remove stains from silk within a day of the spotting if possible. In most cases, it is better to take the garment to the dry cleaners rather than attempting to remove the spot.

Other fibers, generally, can have cool water applied to the stain to dilute the stain, and then absorb the moisture as quickly as possible. When the fabric is dry cleanable only, take it to a dry cleaner as soon as possible.

Removing a stain from washable fabric involves working from behind the stain or on the back of the fabric. Place the stained area over absorbent material and then pat the stained area with a cosmetic cotton ball to push the stain out of the fabric.

What you use to remove the stain depends on the stain. You can use a dry cleaning solvent on oil, or a laundry product designed for oily stains or a liquid detergent. After applying stain removal techniques and the stain still remains, then use a bleach. There are non-chlorine bleaches on the market that are safe to use on washable fabrics and colors. Keep in mind that chlorine bleaches, while effective, remain in the fabric after washing and can have a long range deteriorating effect on fabrics that will be preserved for future use.

Some fabrics hold oily stains more than other fabrics. Garments or home furnishings made with polyester or blends with polyester will hold oily stains more than other fabrics.

Polyester is oil absorbing. In order to eliminate that oil, pre-spotting before washing is necessary because the oily stain requires a heavy concentration of a cleaning agent to remove the oil.

The laundry detergent in a washing machine is often too dilute to remove oily stains from polyester.

Cotton, linen, or rayon fabrics that have a wrinkle resistant finish may also have a tendency to absorb oily stains because of the chemistry of the finish. Oily stains need to be pre-treated on fabrics with resin finishes, the same way as polyester or polyester/blend fabrics.

Keep in mind, never rub a fabric as this can distort the surface of the fabric or remove some of the color.

You may contact the County Extension Office at 352-8244 for specific details on removing stains.

Daniel Riley promoted

Marine Pfc. Daniel J. Riley, son of Edwin G. and Ann F. Riley of Route 1, Spout Spring, has been promoted to his present rank while serving with 2nd Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, NC.

A 1981 graduate of Appomattox County High School, Appomattox, he joined the Marine Corps in April 1984.

CHARLES GREEVER, area distributor for the New Lexicon Encyclopedia presents a 21-volume set of the encyclopedia to the Appomattox County Library as a Christmas gift. Accepting the gift on behalf of the library is Margaret Glover, librarian. "This gift updates our encyclopedia collection," Glover commented. (Photo by Bill Sherred)

Marine Lance Cpl. Reginald L. Taylor, son of Bertha B. Taylor of Route 1, Concord, Va., has been promoted to his present rank while serving with 1st Marine Division Camp Pendleton, CA.

Christmas Greetings to All

Downtown

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Problems with fescue

By JAMES A. SMITH
Extension Agent

Fescue is a major component of the forage program on Appomattox County farms. It's here to stay, but there can be problems associated with this forage that need to be addressed and understood.

There is a fungus associated with fescue sometimes referred to as fescue toxicity. Fescue is probably present in most fescue stands at some level.

The problems that are introduced by the fungus can be minimized by having 20 to 25 percent of the stand in clover. The clover appears to correct the depressed animal performance. This is a low cost way to correct the problem and it is also a way to reduce fertilizer cost by eliminating the need for nitrogen. Plan now to overseed clover in fescue pasture and hay fields in February.

In planning for next year make an inventory of your forage species. No more than 35 percent of the pasture acreage should be in fescue. Orchard grass, and bermuda grass should make up the remainder. If it is necessary to correct the percentage of fescue on your farm use the no-til process to convert excess fescue to a more desirable species or re-establish conventional fescue with a fungus-free variety of fescue.

If a new establishment of fescue is in order don't let the higher seed price of fungus-free fescue prevent moving in this direction. The long range potential benefits are too great to ignore.

Fescue will spread; it will become the dominant forage in a field. Use care to prevent the spread of fescue. Clipping seed heads before maturity, not feeding hay with viable seed in it on pastures free of fescue and restriction of grazing animals to prevent spread of viable seed in manure are important restraints to the spread of fescue.

The ability to store grains to avoid frequent depressed markets at harvest time is a good management tool. Remember that grain in storage does not pay bills or earn interest. There is a cost of keeping grain in storage, for example if soybeans are selling for $5.50 a bushel and the interest rate is 11 percent, you are paying (or losing) 5 cents per bushel per month on the value of the grain.

Dairymen on DHI have a new scoring system for somatic cell counts that run 1 - 9. Herds with less than 3 are in good condition, and no changes are needed. First calf heifer should score no more than 2.5.

A new quick test for antibiotic residues in milk is on the market and is being evaluated by several land grant institutions. The Penzyme test can be done in 20 minutes, much quicker than other tests currently available and cost about $2.50 per sample. If test prove acceptable, several dairymen living close together may want to purchase a kit. The manufacturer claims that the following antibiotics can be detected: Penicillium G, Ampicillim, Amoxicillin, Cloxacillin, Hetacillin, Oxicillin, Nafcillin, Cephapirin and Cephalosporius.

Dairymen are moving into that season of the year when mastitis is usually greatest. You may want to work through your veterinarian to have the state lab run a test to determine the organisms and also run sensitivity tests.

Strawberry producers should treat strawberries with a combination of Devrinol and Tenoran. Sunlight breaks down Devrinol very quickly; therefore, strawberries should be irrigated or mulched following applications. These herbicides need to go on before the soil freezes.

Research at the University of Kentucky for two years comparing milo-soybean and corn silages shows that the combination of grain sorghum plus soybean results in less milk production per acre when utilized as the primary forage in dairy rations. For the two years, the combination of grain sorghum and soybean produced only 4.3 tons of dry matter per acre.

Dairymen and cattlemen need to consider what crops will provide the greatest return at the least costs.

Orators honored

IVEY HOLLAND (left), oratorical historian for American Legion Post 104, presents checks amounting to $100 to Richard Steadman, Appomattox County High School's winner of the local Legion-sponsored Oratorical Contest. Next to Holland and Smith are (from left) Brett Marston, first runner-up; Janet Smith, second runner-up; and Don Armentrout, principal of ACHS. Brett received $50, and Janet Smith received $25. Awards were provided jointly by Appomattox County High School and American Legion Post 104. Richard will represent his school in the district Oratorical Contest to be held in Lynchburg Jan. 17.

ASCS Today

By TOM CONRAD

FLUE-CURED TOBACCO FARMERS REMINDED OF NEW LAW--A new law governing the lease and transfer of flue-cured tobacco allotments and quotas becomes effective with the 1985 crop year.

The law provides that the consideration offered for the tobacco allotment and quota which is leased and transferred may not be paid until the tobacco produced under the lease is marketed. If the tobacco allotment and quota is rented and planted on the farm for which the allotment and quota was established, there are no restrictions on when the rent can be paid.

Lease and transfer of tobacco allotments and quotas occurs when the allotment and quota is moved from one farm to another by means of a Lease and Transfer Agreement. Both parties are required to sign a certification of compliance when the leasing agreement is filed with ASCS. It is especially important for both parties to adhere to the leasing agreement as severe penalities will be assessed for failure to do so.

Flue-cured tobacco leasing and transferring will end with the 1986 crop year. Beginning with the 1987 tobacco crop, the allotment and quota may be utilized only on the farm to which the allotment and quota are assigned.

Beginning with the 1986 crop, the owner of a flue-cured tobacco allotment and quota must sell or forfeit the allotment and quota if flue-cured tobacco has not been planted or considered planted on the farm during at least two of the preceding three years. When tobacco allotment and quota is leased and transferred from a farm, it is considered as planted on the farm from which the allotment and quota was transferred.

Flue-cured tobacco allotments and quotas may be sold year-round since the sale is a permanent transaction. However, the seller must offer the buyer the option to pay in no more than five equal fall installments.

Further details on tobacco program changes may be obtained from the ASCS office.

USDA ANNOUNCES 1985 FLUE-CURED TOBACCO QUOTA --The 1985 national marketing quota for flue-cured tobacco will be 775 million pounds, about 3.7 percent below the 1984 quota.

Overmarketings are estimated to exceed net undermarketings by 20 million pounds, making the 1985 effective quota about 755 million pounds--or 77 million pounds below the 1984 effective quota.

Under the tobacco program, farmers who produce more than their quota of tobacco in one year (an overmarketing) must "undermarket" the amount of the overage the following year.

After overmarketings were taken into account, a decrease in the 1985 quota was still needed so that a significant reduction in supplies would occur and reduce the oversupply of flue-cured tobacco.

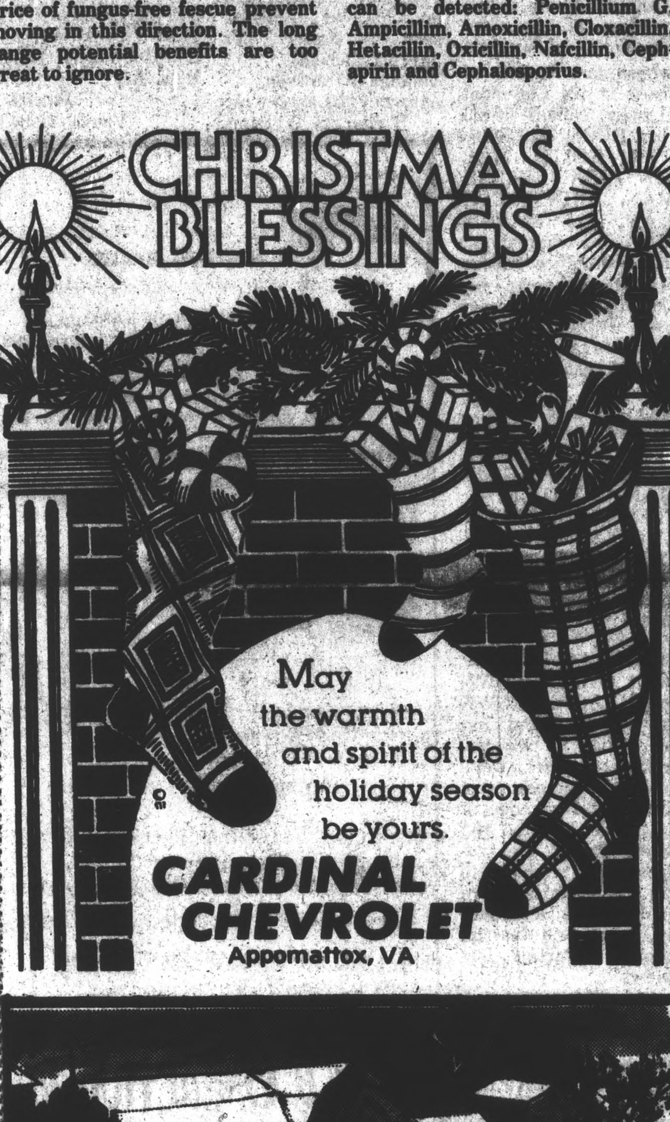
Under the statutes the quota could have been cut further. However, tobacco growers and the industry have been moving voluntarily toward a more market-oriented program and it is important to ensure an adequate supply of all grades and qualities of tobacco.

Supplies of flue-cured tobacco--the quantity of hand at the start of the 1984 marketing year plus 1984 marketings--are about 762 million pounds in excess of the reserve supply level. The reserve supply level is the quantity considered adequate to meet estimated domestic use and export needs. Current legislation provides for reducing the quota when supplies exceed the reserve supply level.

The 1985 national acreage allotment is 389,643 acres, down from the 1984 allotment of 404,726 acres. Current law provides that a reserve acreage of not more than 3 percent of the national acreage allotment may be withheld for corrections, for adjustments and for establishing new farm allotments. However, no more than a third of such reserve may be used for corrections and adjustments.

Estimated marketings from the 1985 quota are expected to be 755 million pounds down 93 million pounds from the 1984 crop.

Flue-cured tobacco is grown in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.



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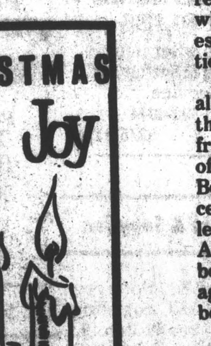

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Puckett completes course

Second Lt. Darrel W. Puckett, son of Herman J. and Jean R. Puckett of Rural 1, Spout Spring, Va., has graduated from a Minuteman missile crew officer course at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.

Students became familiar with the weapons systems and learned the required checklists, emergency war order instructions and associates security measures.

Puckett will now serve at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D.

He is a 1982 graduate of Lynchburg College, Va.

Christmas is a special time filled with merriment for everyone. We hope yours is exceptionally happy since you made us happy by being a customer and becoming a good friend.

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Fleming Drinkard
'Bubba' Duff
Timmy Garrett
Claiborne Inge
Margaret Miller
Carolyn Kreidel
Sunny Harwood
Matt Lair
Ethelyne Megginson
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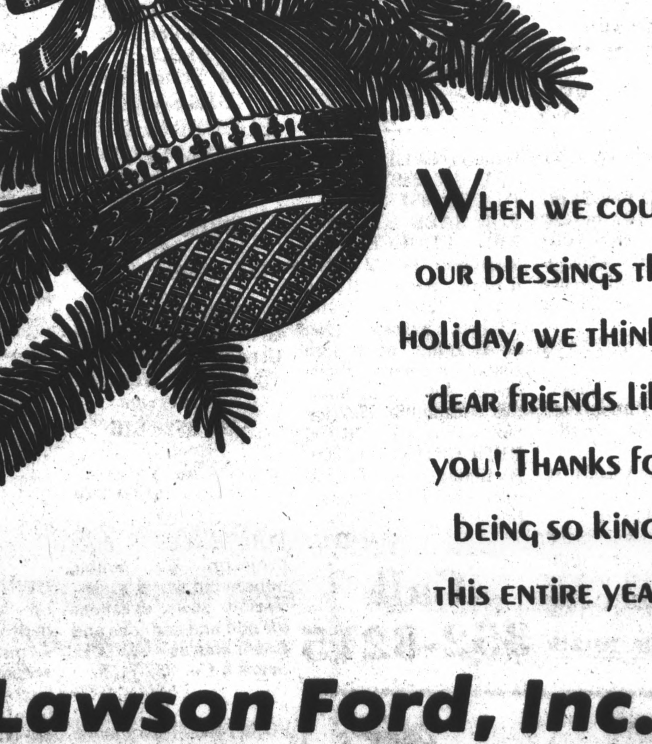
GREETINGS



When we count our blessings this holiday, we think of dear friends like you! Thanks for being so kind this entire year.

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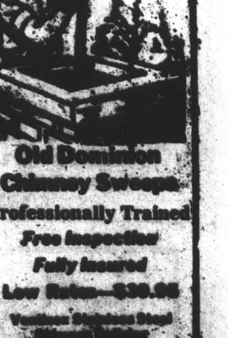

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